

# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

## FOR NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

### May 2004



#### In six of nine counties, unemployment rates drop closer to normal or below normal

Falling more gradually than it usually does in April, **Adams County's** unemployment rate was 0.8 percent above its typical level after spending six months below typical levels. If the pickup in construction employment looks any slower this spring than it did last spring, it would be because construction employment did not drop quite as much this winter as it did last winter. Leisure & hospitality employment estimates are closer to year-ago levels than they have been for much of the last year, but they still remain below year-ago levels.

The unemployment rate in **Forest County** was 1.5 percent below the typical April rate, by far the most encouraging rate the county has posted in the last year. While the growth in construction jobs was slower than last April, it is still early in the season. Still volatile, the education & health services sector seems to be following last year's trend since November.

At 1.1 percent above its typical April level, the unemployment rate in **Langlade County** is closer to normal than it has been at any time in the last year. The construction sector remains slightly above last year's level and the trend remains very similar. The information, professional, business & other services sector has been a bit more volatile over the last twelve months than it had been over the previous twelve months and a trend is difficult to discern.

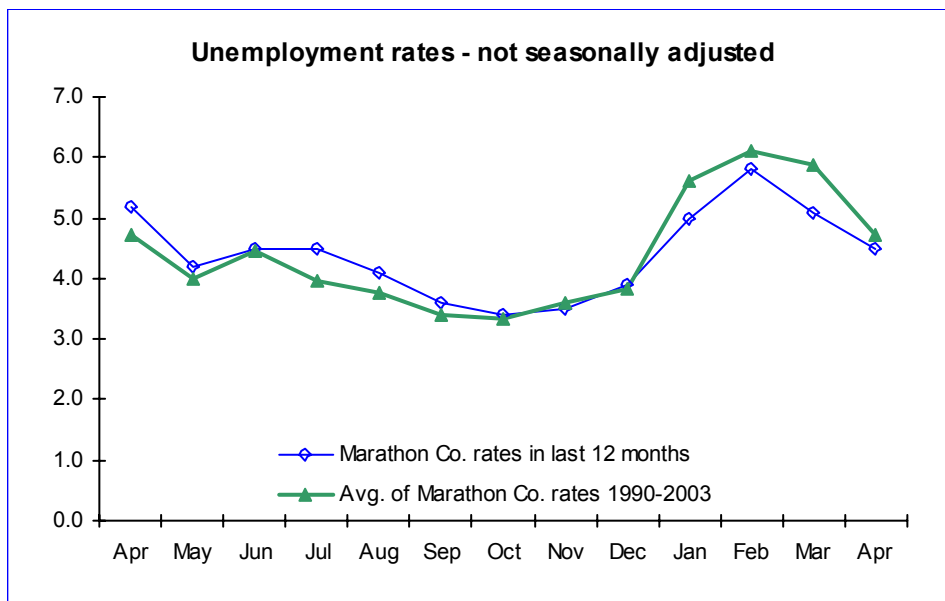
In April, **Lincoln County** posted a below-typical rate for the first time in over a year. Since August, construction employment estimates have followed year-ago trends, although at a lower level. Last summer was softer than the summer before; this summer could show how much construction has bounced back. Leisure & hospitality spent much of last spring and last fall below year-ago levels, and this spring's growth seems to show more vigor.

**Marathon County's** unemployment rate remains below typical levels, although not as far below as it had been January through March. (See graph above.) Construction shed fewer jobs this winter than last and seems to be keeping pace with last spring's job growth, so it remains above year-ago levels. Retail trade shed more jobs this December through March

than last year at the same time and remains well below year-ago levels. The professional & business services sector was below year-ago levels from April of 2003 to January of 2004, so March and April figures exceeding year-ago levels might suggest improvement in the sector.

Declining faster than usual, **Oneida County's** unemployment rate almost exactly matched its typical April level. The retail & wholesale trade experienced slower job growth last summer than the summer before, but this spring looks stronger than last spring. In recent months the information, professional, business & other services sector has hovered around year-ago levels, but has not yet staged a robust comeback. Construction employment estimates continue to follow last year's trend.

Bucking the regional trend, **Portage County's** unemployment rate fell more slowly than it usually does in April and was further above typical than it had been since last April. The leisure & hospitality sector continues to fluctuate with patterns similar to last year's, but at a higher level. Much the same is true in the construction sector.



In **Vilas County**, the April unemployment rate came closer to its typical level any rate in the last year has. Despite the April gain, the information, professional, business & other services sector remains well below year-ago levels and has not yet rebounded convincingly from tepid performance last summer. Construction shed fewer jobs this winter than last and seems to be picking up as many this spring as it did last spring.

**Wood County's** unemployment rate fell much as it typically does in April, leaving it about 1.2 percent above its typical level. Manufacturing and leisure & hospitality seem to be following last year's trends fairly closely, with the former sector somewhat below year-ago levels and the latter somewhat above year-ago levels. From August to December 2003, construction employment estimates remained very close to year-ago levels. From February through April 2004, they have been above year-ago estimates, although the general trend is still relatively similar to last year's.

## Employment by industry estimates - not seasonally adjusted

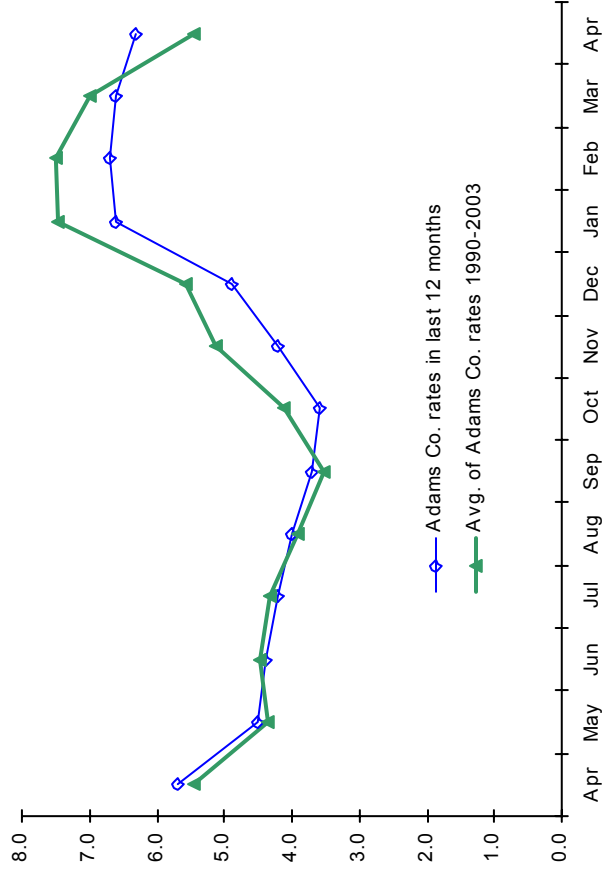
	Wisconsin		Adams		Forest		Langlade		Lincoln							
	Apr 2004	1-month change	Apr 2004	1-month change	Apr 2004	1-month change	Apr 2004	1-month change	Apr 2004	1-month change						
Total jobs, all industries*	2,799,700	39,600	38,100	4,000	170	-20	3,300	0	-140	3,600	70	30	11,700	120	-80	
Const., min'g & nat. resources	125,000	8,400	5,400	220	40	20	90	20	-10	150	20	20	350	40	-30	
Manufacturing	502,600	3,700	-1,300	430	0	-20	310	-10	-30	400	10	-30	3,400	10	-30	
Trade (w wholesale & retail)	434,900	5,400	11,700	530	50	-10	300	10	0	680	0	20	1,710	40	-20	
Transport, Wrhsng, Utilities	105,300	600	0	130	0	-10	140	-10	-10	180	0	-10	350	-20	-20	
Financial activities	158,600	-500	2,700	90	0	0	100	0	0	210	0	10	790	20	10	
Education & health services	375,000	800	10,700	480	10	10	400	30	10	290	0	20	950	-10	-10	
Leisure & hospitality	243,200	8,500	7,500	460	40	-20	180	0	-20	210	0	10	1,020	50	50	
Info, prof, bus. & other srvc	434,100	10,100	9,000	390	20	30	190	10	-20	320	20	0	1,030	20	20	
Government	421,000	2,600	-7,600	1,240	10	-30	1,560	-50	-70	1,140	20	-10	2,100	-10	-50	
Civilian Labor Force**	3,082,900	-9,400	29,300	8,500	310	190	5,000	-100	-190	9,700	10	-320	14,600	-360	-310	
Employed	2,925,200	24,300	61,100	8,000	320	130	4,500	-20	-90	8,900	130	-80	13,700	90	90	
Unemployed	157,700	-33,700	-31,900	530	-10	60	410	-80	-100	830	-120	-240	980	-440	-400	
Unemployment rate (%)	5.1	-1.1	-1.1	6.3	-0.3	0.6	8.2	-1.3	-1.7	8.6	-1.2	-2.1	6.7	-2.8	-2.5	
	Marathon		Oneida		Portage		Vilas		Wood							
	Apr 2004	1-month change	Apr 2004	1-month change	Apr 2004	1-month change	Apr 2004	1-month change	Apr 2004	1-month change	Apr 2004	1-month change	Apr 2004	1-month change	Apr 2004	1-month change
Total jobs, all industries*	69,500	600	300	17,500	490	60	33,300	320	190	7,600	70	-30	44,000	650	270	
Const., min'g & nat. resources	2,700	200	200	1,140	160	40	1,030	150	40	790	80	40	1,610	120	50	
Manufacturing	17,600	-200	100	1,350	0	-110	4,500	-10	-460	400	0	-20	7,200	150	-360	
Trade (w wholesale & retail)	13,900	500	-500	3,800	110	110	5,200	-80	150	1,300	40	40	6,100	50	-190	
Transport, Wrhsng, Utilities	2,800	0	100	420	10	-30	1,920	40	-30	120	0	0	3,300	60	70	
Financial activities	4,800	-100	-100	530	-10	10	3,900	0	-60	390	0	40	1,180	-10	50	
Education & health services	7,300	100	400	3,100	10	-20	3,300	50	160	790	10	50	11,100	30	340	
Leisure & hospitality	4,900	100	0	2,100	50	190	3,400	140	220	1,110	-10	-130	2,900	170	180	
Info, prof, bus. & other srvc	7,500	200	300	2,300	130	-10	3,900	20	130	560	30	-50	5,000	10	70	
Government	8,000	-200	-200	2,700	40	-110	6,000	0	40	2,200	-70	0	5,600	70	40	
Civilian Labor Force**	77,700	-40	930	21,100	-60	-160	39,900	150	930	11,500	100	-90	42,000	-120	640	
Employed	74,200	420	1,430	19,600	330	200	37,600	230	930	10,500	180	110	39,400	420	800	
Unemployed	3,500	-450	-500	1,460	-380	-350	2,300	-80	-10	1,040	-80	-190	2,600	-540	-160	
Unemployment rate (%)	4.5	-0.6	-0.7	6.9	-1.8	-1.6	5.7	-0.2	-0.2	9.0	-0.7	-1.6	6.2	-1.3	-0.5	

Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Numbers  $\geq$  2,000 are rounded to nearest 100; numbers <2,000 rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers; results rounded.

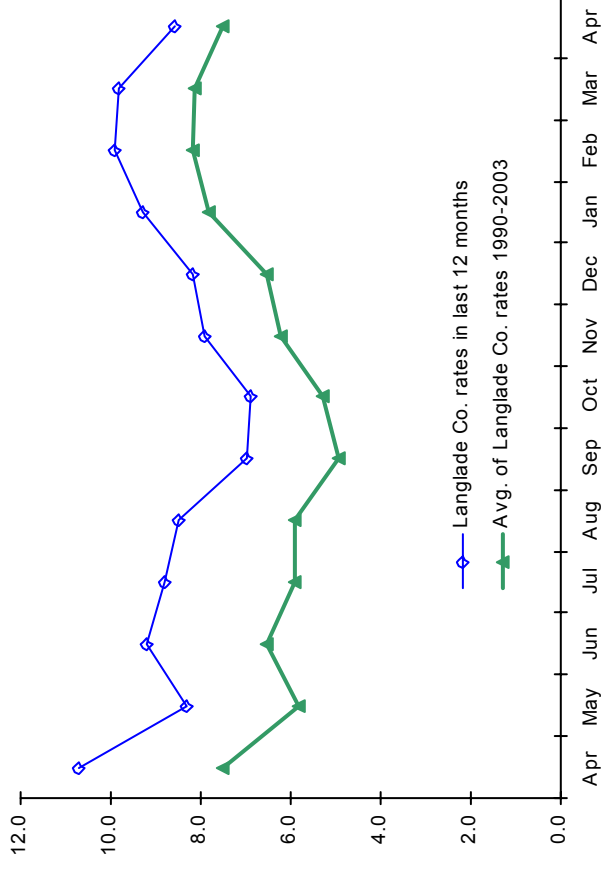
\*Includes jobs with employers in area. \*\* Includes labor force participants residing in area.

For more information call (608)242-4885, email [den.barrollne@dwd.state.wi.us](mailto:den.barrollne@dwd.state.wi.us), or see <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmt>.

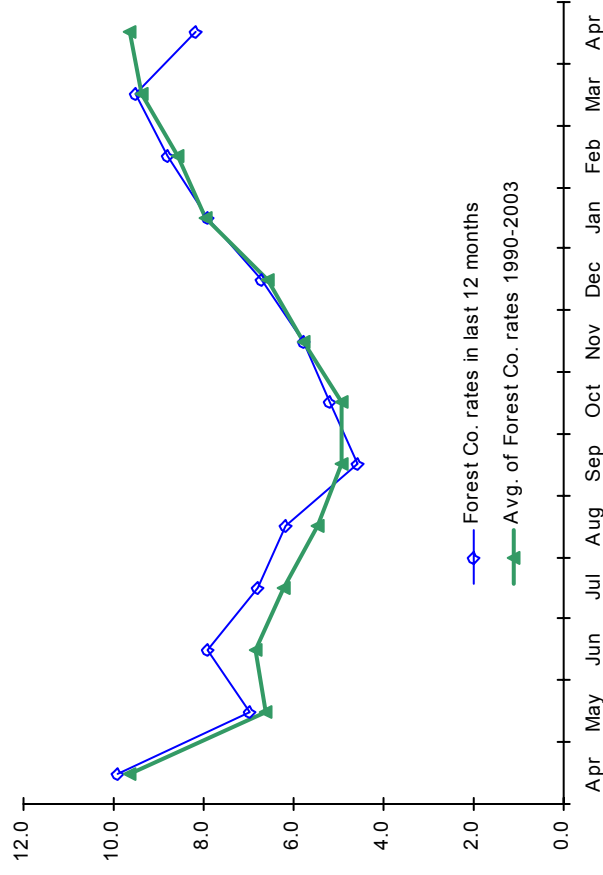
Unemployment rates - not seasonally adjusted



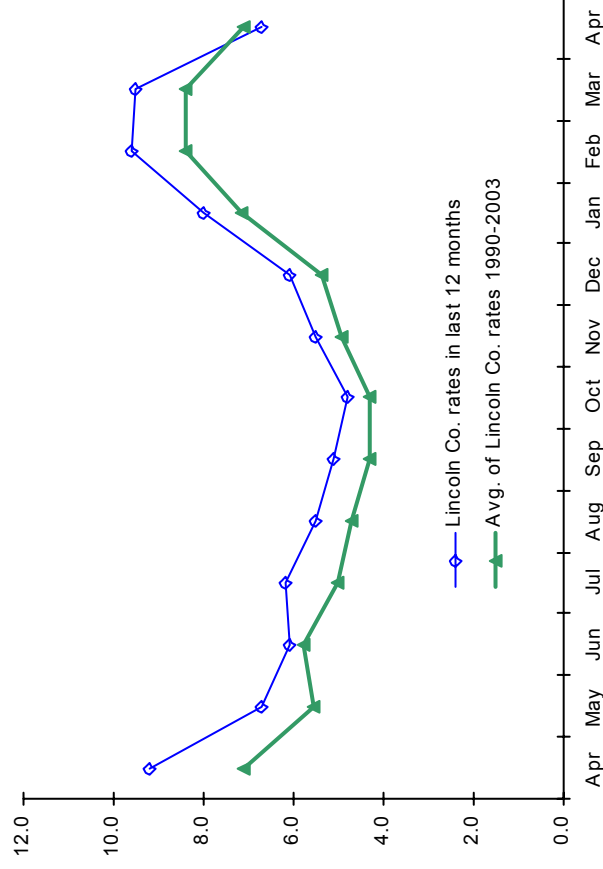
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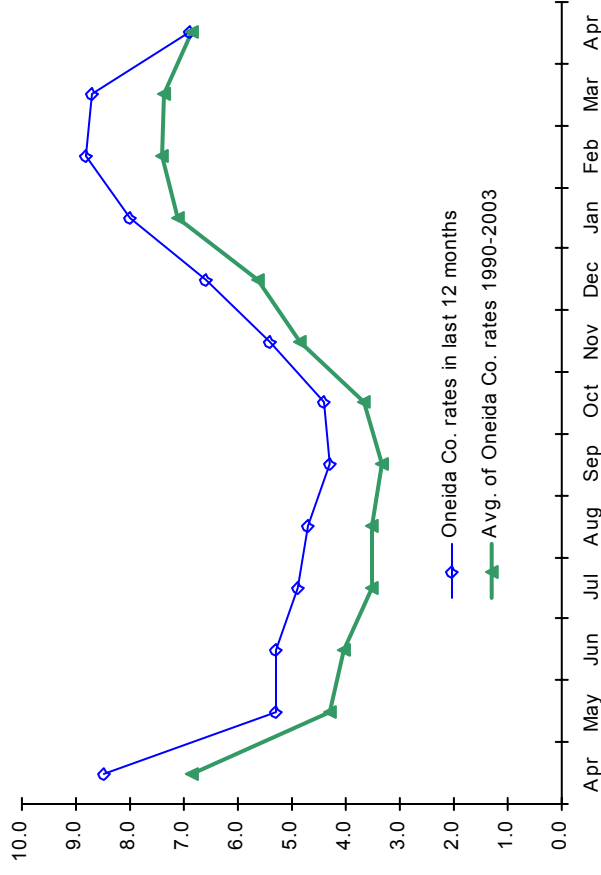
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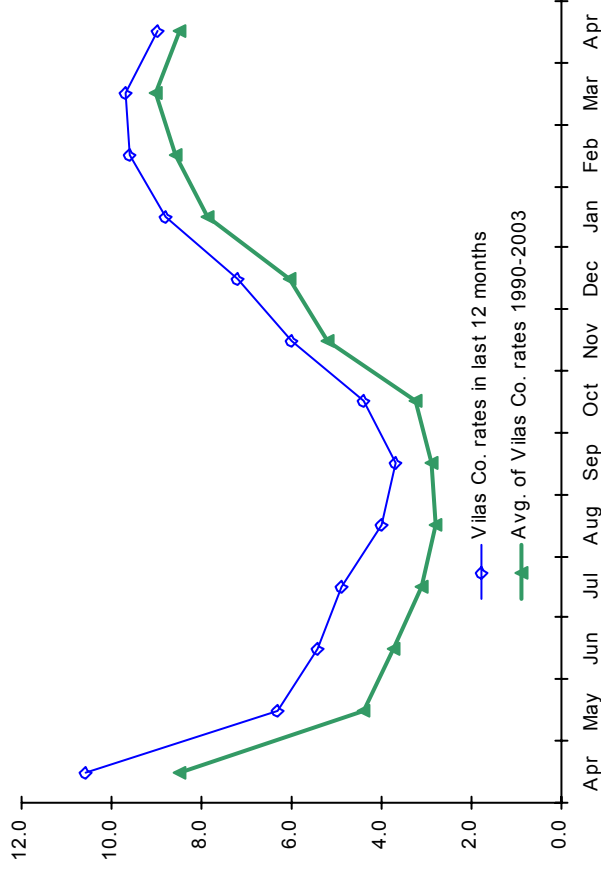
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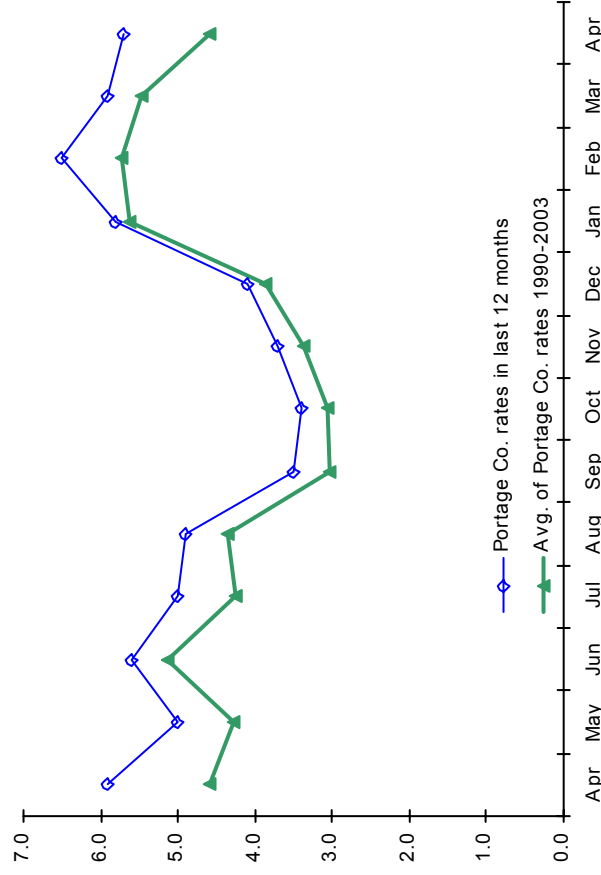
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